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RDT&E BUDGET ITEM JUSTIFICATION SHEET (R-2 Exhibit)

DATE

February 2003

BUDGET ACTIVITY

06 - RDT&E Management Support

PE NUMBER AND TITLE

0605306F Ranch Hand II Epidemiology Study

PROJECT

2767

COST (\$ in Thousands)	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Estimate	FY 2004 Estimate	FY 2005 Estimate	FY 2006 Estimate	FY 2007 Estimate	FY 2008 Estimate	FY 2009 Estimate	Cost to Complete	Total Cost
2767 Ranch Hand II Epidemiology Study	11,258	10,703	4,692	4,834	4,170	0	0	0	Continuing	TBD
Quantity of RDT&E Articles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(U) **A. Mission Description**

As a result of Presidential direction, PE 0605306F was established to conduct a 25-year epidemiology investigation of approximately 1,200 Air Force personnel who were involved with aerial spraying of herbicides in Vietnam from 1962 to 1971 (Operation Ranch Hand). The objective of this investigation is to determine whether long-term health effects exist and can be attributed to occupational exposure to phenoxy herbicides and their associated dioxins.

This project involves a 25-year study, initiated in 1980, that compares United States Air Force (USAF) Ranch Hand personnel to a control group of USAF crew members and support personnel who were not exposed to herbicides while serving in Southeast Asia. Approximately 20,000 individuals (exposed personnel group plus control group) are participating in the annual mortality study, with approximately 2,200 (exposed personnel group plus control group) of these participating in the detailed morbidity study during each physical examination cycle. The detailed physical examination cycle includes follow-up health examinations at the 3-, 5-, 10-, 15-, and 20-year time periods. The study includes examination of the possible occurrence of birth defects in children as determined from children's medical records and family medical histories. The Congressionally-established Ranch Hand Advisory Committee has directed that all study findings be reported to the scientific community as peer-reviewed journal articles. Note: This program is comprised of six cycles and each cycle consists of participant physical examinations followed by data analysis and report generation. The largest expenditure of funds occurs during the physical exam cycles such as in 1997-1998 and 2002-2003. The program has begun the Cycle 6 physical exams; therefore, significantly more funds are required in FY 2002 and FY 2003 than were required in FY 2000 and FY 2001. The program is scheduled to terminate in FY 2006.

(U) **FY 2002 (\$ in Thousands)**

- (U) \$8,307 Initiate the sixth and final cycle of physical examinations, questionnaires, and participant database.
- (U) \$1,189 Continue to process and document examination data to include continuing to verify the physical examination database. Conduct new coding and verify the coding of existing medical records. Perform the annual mortality analysis of approximately 1,200 Ranch Hand personnel and 19,000 comparison personnel. Conduct data analysis for articles to be submitted to peer-reviewed journals as directed. Process and document Cycle 6 examination data to include updating of the participant database.
- (U) \$1,762 Process and document retrieved medical records data. Continue archiving previous cycles' examination data and digitize and archive the Cycle 6 data as received. Conduct medical records coding and verification of examination database and Cycles 1 through 6 coding. Perform annual

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<p>(U) <u>A. Mission Description Continued</u></p> <p>(U) <u>FY 2002 (\$ in Thousands) Continued</u></p> <p>mortality analysis support. Conduct data analysis for journals and reports to Congress. Maintain Ranch Hand II local area network (LAN).</p> <p>(U) \$11,258 Total</p> <p>(U) <u>FY 2003 (\$ in Thousands)</u></p> <p>(U) \$8,374 Complete the sixth and final cycle of physical examinations, questionnaires, and participant database.</p> <p>(U) \$1,185 Continue to process and document examination data to include continuing to verify the physical examination database. Conduct new coding and verify the coding of existing medical records. Perform the annual mortality analysis of approximately 1,200 Ranch Hand personnel and 19,000 comparison personnel. Conduct data analysis for articles to be submitted to peer-reviewed journals as directed. Process and document Cycle 6 examination data to include updating of the participant database. Continue to conduct medical records coding.</p> <p>(U) \$1,144 Continue to process and document examination data. Continue archiving previous cycles' examination data and digitize and archive the Cycle 6 data as received. Conduct medical records coding and verification of examination database and Cycles 1 through 6 coding. Perform annual mortality analysis support. Conduct data analysis for journals and reports to Congress. Continue maintenance of Ranch Hand II LAN.</p> <p>(U) \$10,703 Total</p> <p>(U) <u>FY 2004 (\$ in Thousands)</u></p> <p>(U) \$2,378 Complete data processing and statistical analysis of examination data. Document all analyses and findings and initiate work on the 3,000 page Sixth Cycle Final Report. Conduct analyses as directed by Congressionally-established Ranch Hand II Advisory Committee based on morbidity data trends and findings.</p> <p>(U) \$1,182 Continue to process and document examination data and to verify the physical examination database. Continue new medical records coding and verify existing medical records coding. Perform the annual mortality analysis of approximately 1,200 Ranch Hand personnel and 19,000 comparison personnel. Conduct data analysis for articles to be submitted to peer-reviewed journals as directed. Process and document Cycle 6 examination data to include updating of the participant database.</p> <p>(U) \$1,132 Continue support for processing and documenting retrieved medical records data, to include: archiving and digitizing of Cycle 6 medical data as received; additional medical records coding and verification of examination database; additional annual mortality analysis support; continued maintenance of Ranch Hand II LAN; and, additional data analyses for journals and reports to Congress.</p> <p>(U) \$4,692 Total</p>		
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(U) **B. Budget Activity Justification**

This program is in Budget Activity 6, Management and Support, since it includes research and development efforts directed towards support of installations or operations required for general research and development use.

(U) **C. Program Change Summary (\$ in Thousands)**

	<u>FY 2002</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>	<u>FY 2004</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
(U) Previous President's Budget	10,950	11,029	4,834	TBD
(U) Appropriated Value	10,950	11,029		
(U) Adjustments to Appropriated Value				
a. Congressional/General Reductions	-103	-117		
b. Small Business Innovative Research	-272			
c. Omnibus or Other Above Threshold Reprogram	1,000	-209		
d. Below Threshold Reprogram				
e. Rescissions	-317			
(U) Adjustments to Budget Years Since FY 2003 PBR			-142	
(U) Current Budget Submit/FY 2004 PBR	11,258	10,703	4,692	TBD

(U) **Significant Program Changes:**

FY 2002 Congressional add of \$1.0 million for Ranch Hand was reprogrammed from Defense Health Program to meet Congressional intent. The increase in FY 2002 and FY 2003 funding is due to the physical exams scheduled in these years. The increase is a normal part of the cyclical nature of funding in this program.

(U) **D. Other Program Funding Summary (\$ in Thousands)**

	<u>FY 2002</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>	<u>FY 2004</u>	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>FY 2007</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>Cost to</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Complete</u>	

(U) Not Applicable.

(U) **E. Acquisition Strategy**

Not Applicable.

(U) **F. Schedule Profile**

	<u>FY 2002</u>				<u>FY 2003</u>				<u>FY 2004</u>			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4

(U) Not Applicable.

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